

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination given the present application. Claims 1-8 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 1-8 as being allowable, if the objections were overcome. Since Applicants have amended the specification, abstract, drawings, and claims, claims 1-8 are now in condition for allowance.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the abstract and suggested adding "an" in the first line. This has now been accomplished.

The Examiner objected to the specification and indicated four specific problems on pages 1-3. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have not only made these changes, but also have reviewed the entire specification and made other changes to replace awkward wording. Accordingly, this objection should be overcome.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as including reference sign 142, which was not described in the specification. By way of the present amendment, replacement pages for Figs. 3 and 4 have been filed, which removes this reference numeral. Accordingly, this objection is overcome.

Claim Objection

The Examiner objected to the claims due to four wording problems. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have corrected these wording problems in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Conclusion

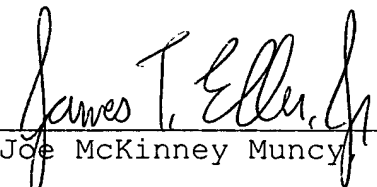

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the application now overcomes the objections of the Examiner. In view of this, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #39,538  
 Joe McKinney Muncy #32,334

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

 KM/RFG/asc  
2450-0541P

Attachments: Abstract of the Disclosure  
Replacement Drawing Sheets

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are two (2) sheets of corrected formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

In Figs. 3 and 4, reference numeral "142" and its associated lead line have been removed.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.